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CHINA.

Bubonic plague in Hongkong in 1898.

[From the Hongkong Government Gazette, December 24, 1898.]

The total number of plague cases reported in Hongkong in 1898 was 1,315. During the first quarter of the year 213 cases occurred, 7 being non-Chinese; during the second quarter 1,094 cases, 66 being non-Chinese, while during July there were 7 cases, 2 being non-Chinese. During August 1 case was reported, but this proved to be remittent fever. Of the non-Chinese cases 26 were in the persons of Europeans, 13 of Portuguese, 24 of Indian, 10 of Japanese, and 2 of Filipinos, making a total of 75 non-Chinese cases to 1,240 Chinese.

The death rate among the Chinese was considerably higher than among the non-Chinese. Of the 75 non-Chinese cases, 49 or 65.3 per cent died; of the 1,240 Chinese cases, 1,111 or 89.6 per cent died. The determining causes of this higher mortality were undoubtedly inferior physique, less healthy surroundings, and lack of the necessary medical treatment of the disease.

CUBA.

*Sanitary report from Santiago—Arrangements for a disinfecting plant.*SANTIAGO DE CUBA, *March 25, 1899.*

SIR: I have the honor to report a gradual increase of the death rate in the civil population of Santiago de Cuba during the past three weeks. During the week ended March 25, there was a total of 36 deaths, being 5 more than the previous week and 14 more than the week preceding that. The principal causes of death during the past week were malarial fevers, 9; enterocolitis, 5; dysentery, 2; tuberculosis, 5; tetanus, 1, and beriberi, 2.

Considerable rain has fallen during the past ten days and the weather is warmer. Work on laying the new water main and sewer pipes and paving the streets with asphaltum has commenced.

During the same week, ended March 25, 31 vessels were inspected, of which 25 were given free pratique, and 6 were inspected prior to departure, and given bills of health.

After unending trouble and many trials of patience, both on the part of Dr. Carter and myself, a hulk has been obtained for use as a floating disinfecting plant. She is an old Spanish barkentine, called *Teresa Pages*, and was purchased at Cienfuegos for \$1,500 and towed here. The boat consists of little more than the bare hull, having been dismantled and stripped of everything movable excepting her ground tackle. The hull appears to be sound, and her copper, as far as visible, is in good repair. She will make a good platform for the disinfecting machinery.

The hulk is 112 feet long over all, and 22 feet beam, 460 tons register. There are 90 by 19 feet of available deck room, which, however, is badly cut up by the hatches, etc. She will need a thorough cleaning and numerous small repairs, also a house to protect the disinfecting machinery.

I have the honor to recommend that she be called *Rough Rider*.

Respectfully, yours,

M. J. ROSENAU,

Passed Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SUPERVISING SURGEON-GENERAL,

U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.